

# The Laurens Advertiser.

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## WOULD-BE RAPIST LYNCHED UNDERNEATH RAILWAY TRESTLE

**Richard Pucket Strung up and Riddled With Bullets Monday Night for Attempted Assault on Prominent Laurens County Lady. Confessed to Crime to Sheriff John D. Owings but Protested Innocence in the Face of the Angry Mob.**

### SOLICITOR COOPER AND SHERIFF OWINGS PROTEST IN VAIN AGAINST ACTION

**Over One Thousand People in the Mob that Stormed the County Jail and Took Negro out Who had Been Placed There Pending Identification. Mob Orderly and Quiet Yet Determined.**

Rich Pucket, a negro probably between twenty-five and thirty years of age, was forcibly taken from the county jail by a mob of determined citizens Monday night and, followed by a crowd of around one thousand men from many sections of the county, was carried to the C. & W. C. trestle which crosses the little stream a few hundred yards south of the passenger station, where he was strung up and riddled with bullets. This was the climax of an exciting day following an attempted assault upon a lady of a prominent Laurens county family on the Double Branch road just beyond the southwest edge of the city. Though protesting his innocence in the face of the angry mob surrounding him just before his death, Rich Pucket had earlier in the day to Sheriff John D. Owings privately confessed his guilt of the attempted assault and the evidence gathered by the men in pursuit pointed so positively in his direction that no doubt can be entertained but that he is the right man. The lifeless body of the would-be rapist hung suspended beneath the railway trestle all during the night and until about nine o'clock yesterday morning when it was taken down upon the order of the county authorities. It was taken in charge by the undertakers and yesterday afternoon it was interred in the colored cemetery near the city.

The awful crime of which the negro was charged was attempted early in the forenoon Monday. The lady was coming to the city to visit a sick relative and had arrived within about a mile of the city limits. The negro, who had been working in a field some distance away, was crouched behind a large bush awaiting his victim. After she had passed and had gone a few feet, the negro approached from behind the bush and attacked her, dragging her from the buggy into the bushes to the side of the road, choking her all the time. Her screams and her almost incoherent declaration that her brothers were coming on behind frightened the negro so that he released his hold and ran without accomplishing his purpose. Bruised and scratched but otherwise not bodily injured, the lady succeeded in climbing back into her buggy and driving to town. She first stopped at the home of Mr. John Hicks and told him of her harrowing experience. Mr. Hicks telephoned the sheriff and the hunt was begun immediately. Word flew like wildfire over different sections of the county where she was known and very soon hundreds of men were on the scene in determined pursuit.

#### The Capture.

Guards were placed immediately around the scene of the crime to protect the tracks of the criminal and bloodhounds were ordered from Columbia. Scouting parties began a search of all the surrounding country. It was when several men stopped at a negro house to get a drink of water that the capture took place. Two negroes were sitting beneath a tree talking when one of them got up and offered to get a dipper. The other one, who later turned out to be the would-be rapist, turned to go through the house when Solicitor Cooper ordered that he be held as he seemed to act in a suspicious manner and ap-

peared to answer to the description given by the lady. He was quickly carried by automobile before his intended victim, but she could not positively identify him. She was almost certain that this was the negro, but she could not recognize the clothes he was wearing. It later turned out that he had change to cleaner clothes after working in the mud or possibly to avoid detection.

As the lady's identification was not complete, the negro was hurried to the county jail for protection until further evidence could be secured and until the blood hounds arrived. During the long wait for the arrival of the blood hounds, which had been sent by automobile through the country, the jail was closely watched by silent and determined men who saw to it that no avenue of escape was left by which the sheriff or his officers could spirit the prisoner away.

The crowd of men anxiously but patiently waited for further evidence against the negro until about seven o'clock, when the dogs from Columbia arrived. They were carried to the scene of the crime and placed in the road where the attack was made. They took up the trail at once and followed it straight to the house where Rich Pucket had been found. From the house, they followed a trail to the place where Rich Pucket was placed in the buggy to be carried off. It was then that all the crowd turned towards the county jail convinced that the right man was in jail.

In the meantime the crowd from the surrounding country grew larger and larger and by nine-thirty it was ready to do its work. Demands began to be made for the prisoner and the crowd took on the aspect of a disorderly mob. The sheriff appeared at the front and attempted to lead the mob to desist. Solicitor Cooper got up and promised to do his best to secure a speedy trial for the negro and stated that the lady herself would not be brought to the court room. The crowd continued to call for the negro. Mr. Cooper asked them to wait while he telephoned the governor to ask for an immediate trial, or while he could confer with close relatives of the lady to see if they favored lynching the negro. Nothing would appease the anger of the crowd. In spite of the protestations of the solicitor, the sheriff and several others who wanted to hear from the governor and from the lady's relatives, the mob began to storm the side gate of the jail. After this was broken in and the sheriff overpowered, some of the leaders went into the jail itself and in short order broke into the cage where Pucket was confined. He was dragged out and down the steps into the jail-yard beneath and from there he was carried through the public square to the scene of the lynching. Hundreds of shots were fired when the fusillade began, but comparatively few took effect. Richard Pucket bore a bad reputation and had just been released from the county chain gang. At a recent term of court he was convicted on the technical charge of burglary, having been accused of trespassing at night and spying on the premises of prominent Laurens citizens. His case was appealed to the supreme court, where the lower court was reversed. The county authorities thereupon turned him at liberty and it is said that Monday was the first day that he

## ANNUAL MEETING OF ADVENTISTS

Over a Hundred Delegates to Attend Meeting of Seventh Day Adventists Here.

The Camp Meeting of the South Carolina Conference of Seventh Day Adventists, is to be held in Laurens at the gospel tent on Irby Avenue, beginning Thursday, August 14th, and continuing for ten days.

Preparations have been made for over 100 delegates, who are beginning to come in from all over the state. Over thirty tents have been erected to accommodate the delegates and in order to carry out the daily program as many as two and three meetings will be in progress at the same time in different large tents.

The meals will be served on the cafeteria plan, in a large dining tent, and the problem of providing food sufficient for about 400 meals a day will no doubt tax to the utmost the abilities of farmers and merchants.

In addition to the evangelists who have been conducting meetings here for the past six weeks, the following evangelists, pastors and educators will be present.

Prof. C. Sorenson, Washington, D. C.

Elder O. Montgomery, Indianapolis, Ind.

Elder C. B. Stephenson, Alpharetta, Ga.

Elder W. H. Beckman, Orlando, Fla.

Elder C. B. Haynes, Baltimore, Md.

Elder F. C. Bilgert, Boston, Mass.

Prof. H. M. Hitt, Atlanta, Ga.

W. H. Williams, Atlanta, Ga.

L. D. Randall, Atlanta, Ga.

V. O. Cole, Atlanta, Ga.

R. Hook, Jr., Atlanta, Ga.

L. D. Lickey, Gault, Mo.

The evangelists state that a rare treat is in store for the people of Laurens in a spiritual way and earnestly invite all the people to attend.

The following program will be carried out each day.

Rising bell, 5:30 A. M.

Devotional Meeting 6:00-6:15 A. M.

Breakfast 7:00 A. M.

District Meeting 8:00-8:45 A. M.

Workers Meeting 8:00-8:45 A. M.

Childrens Meeting 8:00-8:45 A. M.

Bible Study or Instruction Meeting 9:00-10:00 A. M.

Conference 10:30-12:30 P. M.

Dinner 12:45 P. M.

Practical Missionary Work Committee Work 1:30-3:00

Rest Hour

Sermon or Bible Study 3:00-4:00

Childrens Meeting 4:15-5:00

General Instruction and Question Box 4:15-5:00

Young Peoples Meeting 5:15-6:15

Parents Meeting 5:15-6:15

Lunch 6:45

Song Service 8:00

Sermon 8:15

Retiring Bell 9:45

Silence Bell 10:00

LADIES TO SERVE LUNCH.

Will Have a Lunch Stand and Also Serve Refreshments at the Stock Show in Madden.

The ladies of the Women's Missionary Union at Maddens, will serve lunch there next Saturday, the day of the Clemson Car Exhibit and the stock show. They expect to serve a most inviting lunch, including barbecued hash. Besides these lunches they will also sell refreshments of various kinds. The proceeds will be used in the church improvements.

Dr. Hughes' Father Elected.

In a election of State officers for Virginia, held last week, Mr. E. T. Hughes, father of Dr. R. E. Hughes of Laurens, was elected a member of the state senate. He received almost double the vote of his nearest opponent. He was elected to represent two Virginia counties, Fluvanna and Goochland, there being so many counties in that state that it has become necessary to combine counties in selecting members of the legislature. Mr. Hughes has always taken an active part in politics in his state, having been elected to the legislature several times.

had gone to work since leaving the chain gang.

The lynching crowd was a very quiet and orderly one as such crowds go and little drinking was noticed. It was a sullen, silent and determined body of men, bent upon putting a quick end to the life of the would-be rapist.

## LIVE STOCK MEN MEET SATURDAY

To be Entertained at Madden.

### CLEMSON MEN TO BE PRESENT

The Regular Summer Meeting of the Laurens County Live Stock Association is to be held at Madden Station Saturday in Connection with Clemson Institute.

The annual meeting of the Laurens County Live Stock association will be held at Madden Station Saturday, beginning about eleven o'clock in the morning and continuing all day. In connection with the meeting of the association will be held a general agricultural and live stock rally conducted by a party of Clemson experts making an educational tour of the state. The usual live stock competitive exhibits will not be held this year as in the past, but enough stock will be on hand for the Clemson specialists to use in their lectures.

The ladies of Madden have made preparations to feed the crowd that is expected to be present. In addition to a lunch counter, barbecued hash will be served, the proceeds from the sale of these things to go to the bench fund in the New Prospect church.

With the Clemson party will be W. H. Barton, who will address the meeting on "Soil Building," W. P. Stewart, who will speak on "Poultry," O. M. Clark, on "Horticulture," and John D. W. Watts, of this county, who will speak on "Live Stock." The arrangement committee is hoping to have an address from Pres. W. D. Byrd, of the County Live Stock association.

#### Clemson Men at Princeton.

The party of Clemson men, composed of W. H. Barton, W. P. Stewart, O. M. Clark and John D. W. Watts, will be at Princeton Monday, where they will hold one of the farm institutes. It is expected that a large number of people will be present to hear these men speak.

#### First Open Boll.

The Advertiser received by mail the first open cotton boll of the season Monday morning. It came from Albert Baldwin, of Ora, being of the King variety, and is a well developed specimen of cotton. He states that this boll was pulled early Monday morning.

#### Gone From Here.

Mr. Walter Ruff, who has been in the insurance business here and incidentally a star backstop for the Watts ball team, left yesterday for Newberry where he will make his headquarters in the future. During his short stay here he made a great bunch of friends, who regret his decision to anchor in another port.

#### FERDINAND THANKS SOLDIERS.

Bids Them Tell Grandchildren of Bulgarians' Gallantry That They May Complete Work Begun.

Sofia, Aug. 11.—King Ferdinand today issued a pathetic address to the army. In it he thanked his soldiers for the bravery and devotion they displayed in the war against "the treacherous allies" and declared that their efforts would have been crowned with success, "had not a series of unforeseen political circumstances paralyzed our strength."

"Pressed on all sides," the address continued, "we were obliged to sign the treaty of Bucharest our country not being in a condition to struggle against five neighbors. Exhausted and tired, but not conquered, we had to hurl our glorious standards until better days. Tell your children and your grandchildren about the gallantry of the Bulgarian soldiers and prepare them to complete one day the glorious work you began."

The friends of Mr. "Pick" Hudgens, who had several bones in his leg broken last week in a motorcycle accident, were glad to see him so far improved yesterday as to be on the street.

## R. R. COMMISSION ON GRADE CROSSINGS

Council Wants Two Done Away With.

### CHESTNUT STREET HAMPTON STREET

Question Brought up as to Steel Bridge on West Main Street, but Nothing will be Done there Except Making Repairs on Present Structure.

Railroad Commissioners John G. Richards and McDuffie Hampton, accompanied by General Manager Anderson and General Counsel F. B. Grier, of the C. & W. C. railroad, were in the city Thursday looking into the matter of repairing the overhead bridge on West Main street and doing away with the grade crossings on Hampton and Chestnut streets. The railroad commissioners were on their annual trip of inspection over the C. & W. C. and other railroads and stopped in Laurens at the request of the city council.

In company with Mayor Babh and several members of the council, the visitors went to the scenes of the several crossings and inspected the properties. Mr. Anderson promised to make the needed repairs on the Main street bridge immediately. The matter of a steel bridge over the railroad at this point was brought up, but nothing definite was done in this direction. The railroad will hardly be willing to build a steel bridge there at this time and the railroad commission is not empowered to force the matter. The city will probably have to be content with a wooden bridge there for some time to come.

For many years the question of doing away with the grade crossings at the Chestnut street crossing, in the rear of Mr. C. M. Miller's residence, and at the Hampton street crossing, near the residence of Mr. M. L. Copeland has been agitated, but nothing has ever been done in the way of a correction of the conditions. The railroad commissioners were invited here so that the matter might be laid before them. It is stated that they were asked by the council to recommend to the railroad that an overhead bridge built over the Chestnut street crossing and that a driveway be placed underneath the Hampton street crossing. After visiting the two sites, the commissions gave out nothing as to any probable action they would take but reserved their decision until a future date.

While the doing away with the grade crossing at Hampton street would not likely increase traffic along this route, the building of a bridge at the Chestnut street crossing would very likely turn a great deal of traffic from the South Harper street crossing to this crossing. At present, a great deal of traffic avoids the Chestnut street crossing because of the danger and because of the steep approaches on either side. A bridge here would also make it much safer for the school children living on the south side of the city.

#### Chief Eichelberger On Deck.

W. C. Eichelberger, Head Big Chief of the Marion police force is in Laurens spending a week or so of his vacation with his homefolks and a few hundred friends. Since leaving his native soil Officer Eichelberger has made a fine record abroad as an officer, having been the star of the Florence force and now the boss cork-kicker of the Marion department. He has many friends and admirers here who are delighted always to see him. His success in Florence and Marion is no surprise as his work on the local force was exceptionally fine.

#### To Serve Ice Cream.

The B. Y. P. U. Society, of Warrior Creek church, will serve Ice Cream at the home of Mrs. Ida Yeargin Friday evening June 15th beginning at 6 o'clock. The public is cordially invited.

#### Another Speaker at Friendship.

The Advertiser is informed that Mr. J. M. Daniel, of Greenville, has been added to the list of regular speakers at the picnic to be held at Friendship church, Friday the fifteenth.

## WILSON WILL NOT RECOGNIZE HUERTA

John Lind to be "Eyes and Ears" of President.

### WILL EXPLAIN ATTITUDE LATER

President Wilson Has Two Hours Conference With Bryan and Foreign Relations Committee, Showing Senators His Object In Sending Special Envoy to Mexico. No Definite Plans, but Huerta Will Not Be Recognized.

Washington, Aug. 9.—Two hours of conference tonight between President Wilson, Secretary Bryan and the senate foreign relations committee, brought about no change in the attitude of the administration toward Mexico.

President Wilson took the senators into his confidence for enough to outline the following:

That John Lind, his special envoy to Mexico City, does not bear any solution of the present situation, but goes to continue this government's effort to induce Provisional President Huerta to redeem his promises for free constitutional elections.

That under no circumstances does the administration propose to recognize the Huerta government.

That Mr. Lind has gone to Mexico City to be the "eyes and ears" of the Washington administration on the ground, and to explain the attitude of this government when he has fully familiarized himself with the situation.

That by withdrawing Ambassador Wilson and sending Mr. Lind the president planned to have a man on the ground who was in sympathy with the administration here and was in no sense a factor in the solution in Mexico City.

These policies and suggestions of the president and Secretary Bryan came out in general discussion. It was made clear that the purpose of the conference was to establish more frank and intimate relations between the senate and the administration, in the development of the Mexican policy and in furtherance of this idea the president talked freely, answering many pointed questions.

While the president disclosed no definite plan for the pacification of Mexico, the implication remained that upon Mr. Lind's reports would depend to a large extent the future policy of this country.

#### DEATH OF DR. STRICKLER.

Father of Mrs. C. E. Rankin of this City, and an Eminent Southern Divine.

Dr. G. B. Strickler, father of Mrs. C. E. Rankin of this city, died at an Atlanta hospital Monday night after an illness of several months. Dr. Strickler first became ill when on a visit to his daughter here several months ago. He recovered sufficiently at that time to be carried to Atlanta, where his son lived. Although his condition was recognized as precarious then, some hope was held out for his recovery. Several weeks ago an operation was performed and since that time he has gradually grown weaker.

Dr. Strickler was one of the most eminent divines in the southern Presbyterian church, being professor of Theology in Union Seminary, Richmond, Va., at the time of his death, having occupied pastorates in several large cities previously. On several occasions Dr. Strickler visited Laurens, and his home here and occupied Mr. Rankin's pulpit at the Presbyterian church, where his long and noble life and the veneration of years made lasting impressions upon his hearers.

The people of Laurens deeply sympathize with Rev. and Mrs. Rankin in their great loss.

#### H. B. O'Shields Goes to Union.

Mr. H. B. O'Shields, who was manager of the Watts Mills company store here for several years but who has been living in Fort Lawn for some time, has moved to Union, where he has accepted a position as bookkeeper at the Nicholson Loan & Trust Company. The friends of Mr. O'Shields here will be interested to learn of his removal to Union.